

12 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/RR

SUBJECT : Comments on the Middle East Situation  
made by Victor CHERNYAVSKY <sup>1</sup>,  
2nd Secretary, Ukrainian Permanent Dele-  
gation to the United Nations

SOURCE : A U.S. citizen engaged in research on the  
USSR, who has frequent social contact  
with Subject

DATE OF INFO : 20 June 1967

1. During a conversation with Victor CHERNYAVSKY, Source introduced the subject of the Middle East crisis, giving the impression that she was pro-Arab. CHERNYAVSKY said he hoped reason would prevail and that the United States would not go to war to protect Jewish interests. If they did, the result would be nuclear war, which no one wanted. The United States ought to prevail upon the Israelis to drop their arrogant demands. The Soviet Union intends to remain a staunch supporter of the Arabs. Of course, the Arabs "disappointed us." The cause of their defeat lies in the "Arab mentality. Can you imagine, they never even got around to unpacking the equipment we sent them? They are lazy, too lazy even to help themselves."

2. Source commented that no matter how one viewed the recent Arab-Israeli conflict, the Soviet Union suffered defeat along with the Arabs. CHERNYAVSKY argued that it was not necessarily so, that the Arabs would continue to depend on Soviet aid and friendship, and that Western influence was completely wiped out in that area. The United States and Great Britain might as well forget about whatever position they enjoyed in the Arab world in the past, because nothing will ever restore any friendly feelings between the Western capitalists and the Arabs. Also, the Israelis have to give in, and it is very obvious to all Arabs that this will happen only under Soviet pressure.

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3. Having Vietnam on its back, the United States, of course, cannot afford to engage in any new adventure. He, CHERNYAVSKY, knows positively that an increasing number of influential American politicians have come to realize that the United States is in a bind in Vietnam, and that they are no longer concerned about victory but with the question of how to get out of the mess. Had the United States not meddled, Vietnam would today be a peaceful country and the Chinese would have no pretext for creating problems in the world.

SB/CA

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